Press Release

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OPEN HOUSE COMMUNITY MEETINGS FOR

PACIFIC ELECTRIC RIGHT-OF-WAY / WEST SANTA ANA BRANCH CORRIDOR STUDY

MAY 15th, 16th, and 19th IN ORANGE COUNTY AND MAY 22nd, 23rd, and 24th IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Public Meetings Will Showcase Evaluation Results for Final Set of Alternatives, Including Bus Rapid Transit, Street Car, Light Rail, and Low Speed Maglev

LOS ANGELES, CA –April 16, 2012 –The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is nearing completion on a transit study that has explored the reuse of the West Santa Ana Branch of the Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW). Sponsored by SCAG, and in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the aim of the study is to identify and evaluate new transportation options connecting Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

The final set of alternatives that were evaluated includes Bus Rapid Transit, Street Car, Light Rail, and Low Speed Maglev. Also considered were options to do nothing on the corridor (No Build) and to maximize the use of existing resources through minor improvements such as increasing existing bus service, providing new bicycle facilities, and improving traffic flow with street signalization improvements (Transportation Systems Management).

Following is the schedule for the final round of public meetings. During these "open house" meetings, community members will be informed about the final evaluation results through displays and a presentation, and will have the opportunity to ask questions and identify their preferred alternative. Content provided at each meeting will be identical.

Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Santa Ana Regional Transportation Center 1000 E. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92701

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Garden Grove Community Meeting Center

11300 Stanford Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 1:00 – 3:00 pm, Walter Ehlers Community Center 8150 Knott Ave., Buena Park, CA 90620

Tuesday, May 22, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, Japanese American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, John Simms Park 16614 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, CA 90706

Thursday, May 24, 2012, 5:30 – 7:30 pm, South Gate Park, Senior Center 4855 Tweedy Blvd., South Gate, CA 90280

Input received at these meetings will assist the study's advisory committees in identifying recommended alternative(s) for further study. SCAG will conclude its study in June 2012 and forward the recommendations to Metro and OCTA. As the owners of the PE ROW/West Santa Ana Branch corridor, Metro and OCTA have the option to proceed with further study of the project, including preliminary engineering and evaluation of environmental impacts.

For more information, visit the project website at <u>www.pacificelectriccorridor.com</u> or call Philip Law, SCAG Project Manager, at 213.236.1841.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit www.scag.ca.gov.